

# News Release

## *DeSoto & Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges Visitor Services*

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1434 316th Lane, Missouri Valley, IA 51555

712/388-4800 Fax: 712/388-4800 <http://fws.gov/refuge/desoto>

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 5, 2012

**Contact:**

Ken Block, 712.388.4803, [Kenneth\\_block@fws.gov](mailto:Kenneth_block@fws.gov)

### **DeSoto and Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge Celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week on October 13-20, 2012**

**Missouri Valley, Iowa -** Celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week October 13-20 by visiting DeSoto or Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges. What better place to experience the wonders of bird migration than at your local national wildlife refuge!

National Wildlife Refuge Week kicks off with the “Last Chance Fishing Clinic” on Saturday, October 13 at DeSoto Refuge. Discover the wonders of fishing at the last chance fishing clinic on October 13 at 10:00 a.m. at the South Gate Recreation Area. Enjoy one last fishing outing before DeSoto Lake closes for the season on October 15th. Rods and bait provided, or bring your own. Kid’s younger than 16 can fish without a license, fishing license requirements for Nebraska and Iowa residents’ age 16 years and older still apply.

Enjoy the last day of the summer use season on Sunday, October 14 at DeSoto for free on a fee free day to celebration National Wildlife Refuge Week. A partial road closure and the closure of DeSoto Lake will be in effect from October 15-April 14. The purpose of the road closure is to reduce potential disturbance to waterfowl that use DeSoto Lake and refuge wetlands as a stopover area during the fall and spring migrations.

Even though National Wildlife Refuge Week is only one week, there are many exciting events happening at DeSoto Refuge throughout the fall. Fall brings the bird migration to DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge. Join us for special fall migration activities on Saturdays, October 13, 27 and November 3, 10 and 24. Spotting scope station will be available to help visitors get a better view of the visiting birds. Kid’s activities and a scale model nest photo opportunities will be available at the DeSoto Visitor Center.

The Friends Group of Boyer Chute and DeSoto National Wildlife Refuges will have their annual meeting at the visitor's center, on November 11th, at 1:00. Watch the paper, website or the refuge Facebook page for more information.

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The Art of the Wild Show and Sale is scheduled for November 17-18 at the DeSoto Visitor Center. This annual event returns featuring local artists. On both Saturday and Sunday at 1:30 p.m. a special program by Ty Smedes called “The Return of Iowa’s Bald Eagle” will be presented at the auditorium at the visitor center.

On December 9, Refuge Ranger Barb will share bird feeding tips. Meet at the DeSoto Visitor Center at 1:30 p.m.

\* The refuge roads and trails of DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge will be closed the weekends of October 20-21, December 8-9 and January 12-13, 2013 for deer hunts. The visitor center will remain open to the public during the hunts.

An entrance permit is required for all vehicles on days other than fee free days. The regular daily entrance fee for private vehicles is \$3.00. Permits may be obtained at the pay stations near the entrances or at the Visitor Center. The charge for commercial vans and buses is \$20, or \$30 if 21 or more people are aboard. Annual permits, including the \$15 DeSoto Refuge Pass, can be obtained at the visitor center.

DeSoto & Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges are located north of Omaha, Nebraska along on U.S. Highway 30 between Missouri Valley, Iowa and along U.S. Highway 75 near Ft. Calhoun, Nebraska. For more information contact 712/388-4800 or email the refuge at [desoto@fws.gov](mailto:desoto@fws.gov). Check our websites, [www.fws.gov/refuge/desoto/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/desoto/) or [www.fws.gov/refuge/boyer\\_chute/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/boyer_chute/), for refuge updates. Like us on Facebook - search for DeSoto and Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges.

*The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).*

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